

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:RPAGANELLI: JC
APPROVED BY EUR-RDVINE
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R 120111Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: MALTA'S LIBYAN OPTION: MALTESE/LIBYAN MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP ET AL.

REF: VALLETTA 02585

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES AMBASSADOR LAINGEN'S PROPOSED
INITIATIVE THAT WE DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE ALLIES
IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF MALTESE/LIBYAN
RELATIONSHIP.
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2. BEFORE CONSIDERING SUCH DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, WE
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDRESSEES IN-HOUSE VIEWS ON SUBJECT,
AND ON LARGER QUESTION OF IMPLICATIONS OF MINTOFF'S
PICKING UP THE LIBYAN OPTION FOR GREATLY DEEPENED POLITI-
CAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TIES IN ABSENCE OF SATISFACTORY
EUORPEAN RESPONSE TO MALTA'S NEEDS.

3. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASSESS WHETHER
MINTOFF'S LEAPING ALL THE WAY INTO LIBYAN LAP COULD
DAMAGE OUR INTERESTS TO POINT THAT WE SHOULD ACT
TO PRECLUDE SUCH MOVE ON GOM'S PART. WE RECOGNIZE
DANGER THAT LIBYANS COULD PLAY ROLE AS SOVIET SURROGATE,
AND THIS ELEMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ASSESSMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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